

SustainVU

Growing Responsibly

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Vanderbilt Farmer's Market –

October 4, 11, 18, 25

Purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, locally farmed meat, cheeses, and bread every Thursday on the Medical Center Plaza from 3pm to 6pm. Last Farmer's Market is Oct.25, so enjoy now while you can!

EcoChallenge 2012 – October 1-15

The [2012 EcoChallenge](#) takes place October 1-15. Hosted by the [Northwest Earth Institute](#), faculty, staff and students can participate in the two week challenge by choosing one action to reduce environmental impact and stick with it for two weeks. Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) to register.

21st Annual Urban Forestry Conference – October 4-5

It's beginning to look and feel more like fall this month as temperatures cool and leaves begin to change. We encourage you to take part in local events this October and enjoy the outdoors. Vanderbilt has been very busy lately with sustainability accomplishments in cardboard recycling, environmental research, and has even been named a "Green Hero" by the Nashville Post! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a sustainable October!

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VU move-in day sees 83 % increase in cardboard recycling

The 21st Annual Urban Forestry Conference on October 4th and 5th at Ellington Agricultural Center will feature expert presentations, panels, and hands-on demonstrations about creating green spaces and playscapes and managing urban trees. [Read more...](#)

Green Homes Tour – October 6-7

On October 6th and 7th, take part in the 2nd Annual Middle Tennessee Green Homes Tour, which features 12 homes that demonstrate green building design and sustainable living practices. [Read more...](#)

Energy and Environmental Policy at a Crossroads – October 8

On Monday, October 8 from noon-1pm listen to Julie Elperin from the Washington Post discuss how energy and environmental policy play a role in the 2012 election. Event will take place at Vanderbilt Law School, Hyatt Room 144.

Vanderbilt Home Football Games – October 13, 20, 27

Vanderbilt has partnered with Waste Management this year to support the university's environmental initiatives throughout campus, and Commodore fans can help protect the environment by recycling items at each home football game. At each game, one lucky Commodore fan that gets caught "green handed" recycling during tailgating will win a premium souvenir. So show your Vanderbilt pride, anchor down and tackle



During the student move-in time period this year, Vanderbilt successfully recycled 32.66 tons of cardboard. This number is an 83 percent increase in cardboard recycling from last year, and a 400 percent increase in cardboard recycling since 2008.

This huge accomplishment was the result of strong collaboration between the Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) 130 Cardboard Crew student volunteers, Plant Operations grounds keeping group, and Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO). Read more [here](#).

Vanderbilt named to 2012 Green Heroes list by Nashville Post

A graphic of a Venn diagram with three overlapping circles. The top-left circle is labeled "Responsibility", the top-right is "Planet", and the bottom is "People". In the center where all three circles overlap, the words "GREEN HEROES" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

Vanderbilt was named a 2012 Green Hero "adopter" by the Nashville Post in September. Keith Loiseau, university architect, commented that it has taken a hearty network of environmentally conscious students, faculty, staff, and administrative leaders to become a leader in sustainability in Middle Tennessee. Read the [full article](#) here.

New study shows employees at green companies are more productive

Employees of companies which adopt environmental practices are 16 percent more productive, according to a study conducted by UCLA professor Magali Delmas and Sanja Pekovic from France's University Paris-Dauphine. *Environmental Standards and Labor Productivity: Understanding the Mechanisms That Sustain Sustainability* is the first study on how a company's environmental commitment affects its productivity. Read the full study [online](#) in the Journal of Organizational Behavior.

***Sustaining Tennessee in the Face of Climate Change* report released by the Vanderbilt Institute of Energy and the Environment**

recycling!

2012 Game Day Challenge – October 20

The Game Day Challenge is a friendly competition for colleges and universities to promote waste reduction at their football games. The 2012 Challenge is being run by a partnership of the [College and University Recycling Coalition \(CURC\)](#), [RecycleMania](#) and [Keep America Beautiful \(KAB\)](#) and is supported by [EPA's WasteWise](#) program. During the challenge, colleges and universities implement waste reduction programs during home football games. Schools track and report waste reductions and disposal data that is used to rank the schools. Don't forget to recycle during the October 20th game against Auburn and help Vanderbilt win the Game Day Challenge!

Nashville Green Drinks—October 17

On Wednesday, October 17 at 6 pm, participate in Nashville Green Drinks, an organic, casual, self-organized meet up of like-minded professionals with a focus on sustainability.

Nashville Green Drinks will take place at Village Pub (1308 McGavock Pike).

USGBC Monthly Membership Meeting – October 26

The U.S. Green Building Council of Middle TN will host their monthly membership meeting on Friday, October 26 from 11:30 am – 1 pm at the Adventure Science Center. A



Commissioned by the [Sustainable Tennessee Organization](#) and

developed by the [Vanderbilt Institute of Energy and the Environment](#) (VIEE), *Sustaining Tennessee in the Face of Climate Change: Grand Challenges and Great Opportunities*, was released to the public on September 11. This report improves our understanding of climate change and its potential impacts on the environmental and socio-economic conditions and quality of life in the State of Tennessee. Opportunities for adaptation and mitigation are also discussed, including encouraging Tennesseans not look at "actions that address climate change and promote sustainability as barriers to economic development and social progress", but to "focus on those actions that achieve multiple objectives that best-position the State for a bright future". To download the full report, click [here](#).

NSF funding boosts Vanderbilt climate change studies in Sri Lanka

In 2010, the [Vanderbilt Institute for Energy and Environment](#) (VIEE) began a unique interdisciplinary study of agricultural adaptation to water scarcity in Sri Lanka's Mahawli River Watershed. Thanks to a \$3.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation, Vanderbilt will be able to continue to collaborate with local organizations and scholars in Sri Lanka for the next five years.

The small island nation of Sri Lanka exemplifies some of the worst conditions and best responses to the world's environmental challenges, which is why it is such an important location to study. Read more about the research team's focus and methods [here](#).



Spinach power gets a major boost

An interdisciplinary team of VU researchers has developed a way to combine the photosynthetic protein that converts light into electrochemical energy in spinach with silicon, the material used in solar cells, in a fashion that produces substantially more electrical current

buffet style lunch will be served (\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members).
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than has been reported by previous "biohybrid" solar cells.
[Read more](#) in MyVU about the research initiative and the technology's next steps.



For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 322-2057.

